


# Newsletter: The Center for Professional Ethics, Spring 1992

Case Western Reserve University

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/professional\\_ethics](https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/professional_ethics)

 Part of the [Applied Ethics Commons](#), [Bioethics and Medical Ethics Commons](#), [Business Law, Public Responsibility, and Ethics Commons](#), and the [Ethics and Political Philosophy Commons](#)

---

## Scholarly Commons Citation

Case Western Reserve University, "Newsletter: The Center for Professional Ethics, Spring 1992."  
[https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/professional\\_ethics/18](https://scholarlycommons.law.case.edu/professional_ethics/18)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Law School Publications at Case Western Reserve University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Center for Professional Ethics by an authorized administrator of Case Western Reserve University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

The  
Center  
for  
Professional  
Ethics at Case Western Reserve University

# NEWSLETTER

---

SPRING 1992

---

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Robert P. Lawry

"ETHICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT"

By a great stroke of good luck the CPE will be co-sponsoring a visit to Cleveland by Christopher D. Stone, Roy P. Crocker Professor of Law at the University of California. Professor Stone is the first in a series of five Environmental Scholars who have been invited to meet and talk with members of the Case Western Reserve University community during March and April, 1992. A generous planning grant from the Gund Foundation is underwriting these visits and allied activities, all of which are designed to increase awareness of and enhance education in environmental matters.

The CPE was invited to co-sponsor Chris Stone's visit because of his position as one of the country's leading environmental ethicists. In the mid-seventies Chris wrote a ground-breaking book entitled, Should Trees Have Standing? Toward Legal Rights for Natural Objects. He argued eloquently the "unthinkable," i.e., that streams, hills, trees, all the natural world, should have legal rights in and for themselves. This does not mean the same rights as you and me, but "some rights," and those rights should be protected by courts at the behest of the objects themselves. This unthinkable

thesis, Stone reminded us, is akin to similar arguments made (not so long ago) on behalf of African-Americans and women in U.S. legal history.

In 1987 Stone expanded his thesis, and deepened its moral and legal underpinnings in a book entitled: Earth and Other Ethics: The Case for Moral Pluralism.

Always provocative, yet a truly open and generous man, Chris Stone promises to give a rousing but thoughtful kick-off to the Gund Foundation's Environmental Program at CWRU.

Chris will make two public appearances. In conjunction with the Shaker Lakes Regional Nature Center, he will give an informal talk at the Center's facilities at 2600 South Park Boulevard, Shaker Heights, Ohio. Phone: 321-5935. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 1. The public is invited to join Nature Center members for this event.

On Monday, March 2, at 3:00 p.m. in the Moot Court Room of the Law School at Case Western Reserve University, Professor



Stone will deliver a public lecture entitled: Mending the Earth: The Planet in Law and Morals. In his address, Professor Stone will ask the question: Why do planet-wide problems arise and why do they persist? Given the growing world-wide concern that we are veering towards an environmental crisis, many wonder why our social institutions have such a hard time correcting our course. He will examine how law and morals relate in the world-wide effort to control Biospherical degradation. The aim is to clarify, for a lay as well as lawyer audience, the problems that confront those efforts, and to point the way to some solutions.

All are welcomed to come to Professor Stone's lecture and to meet him "up front and personal" at a reception immediately following in the law school rotunda.

Using the theme of "Stewardship of the Earth," our own director emeritus, Bob Clarke, penned a thoughtful column on similar issues in the Winter 1990 issue of the CPE Newsletter. For those of you who are "savers," look up Bob's piece. For all those who care about ethics and the environment, join us on March 2 to hear Christopher Stone address these deeply important matters.

---

## **Mending the Earth: The Planet in Law & Morals**

**Christopher D. Stone, Ph.D.**

Roy P. Crocker Professor of Law, University of Southern California

**MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1992**

**3:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Moot Court Room, School of Law**

---

## **"DOING ETHICS!"**

Below is this issues's "Ethics Case" for you to solve. In a following issue of the Newsletter the "best" answer will be published along with a new case. Please send your responses to: The Center for Professional Ethics, 233 Yost Hall, CWRU, 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7057. Good Luck!

## **PROMISE KEEPING**

Your closest friend extracts a promise from you that you will not repeat what she is about to tell you. You promise. She then confesses that she has become hooked on heroin and is resorting to petty crime to support her habit, and she tells you that she has just stolen money from a neighbor's wallet. The next day you find out that the local delivery boy has been arrested on charges of stealing money from this neighbor while making a delivery.

Question: Should you keep your promise to your friend?

Adapted from "A Few Moral Dilemmas."



## NEWS & NOTES

### *CPE NEWS:*

President Agnar Pytte has given the CPE a \$5000 planning grant to make recommendations concerning undergraduate education. Associate Provost Sandra Russ and Bob Lawry are co-chairs of a blue-ribbon committee selected from scholars across the University to help put together a report on the subject by April 1, 1992.

The Center is having on-going discussions with a variety of people to plan an up-coming dialogue forum on the subject of "the ethics of selling." A diverse group of panelists from entertainment, religion and business will be on hand to discuss the ways they "sell" their product/message to the "consumer." The idea for this conference came from an off-handed remark by Bob Lawry at a seminar on Ethics and Evil. Bob said Madonna's sales message was "evil," and some folks won't let him forget it. Look for a program announcement soon.

On January 31, 1992, Bob Lawry delivered a paper entitled "Professional Ethics and Fidelity to Law" at the **National Conference on Ethics & the Professions**, held at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He will deliver another paper on the subject of "Cross-Examining the Truthful Witness: A Medley of Lawyers' Obligations" at the first **National Conference of the Association for Practical and**

**Professional Ethics** to be held in Indianapolis on March 5 - 7, 1992. Bob is a charter member of this new organization, whose executive committee boasts the names of Sissela Bok and Dennis Thompson from Harvard, Dan Callahan of Hasting's Center fame, and a list of other well-known luminaries in the growing field of professional and applied ethics.

In addition to these national appearances, Bob continues to speak to a variety of local audiences and to conduct ethics workshops for diverse groups. Bob notes an increase in the number of "business" related invitations he had received. Recently he gave a series of workshops for middle managers at **MetroHealth Medical Center** and another workshop on Management Ethics at the **Church of the Western Reserve**. The subject of business ethics and questions of the moral obligation to obey law seem to be particularly "hot" items at the present time.

### *OTHER NOTES:*

A workshop entitled **RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT IN THE UNIVERSITY: A PRACTICUM** will be held on **Wednesday, February 12, 1992** from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Chicago. This one-day, hands-on workshop is for faculty, department chairs, university administrators, and others who have to



## COMMENTS ON "COMPETING FOR A JOB"

### COMPETING FOR A JOB

You and another person (whom you know fairly well without being friends) have both applied for a prominent job in the local office of Universal Turning Machines. You are finalists among the applicants - the only two people on the final short list. Jobs are scarce and this is a good job, but only one of you is going to get it. During your interview, the President of the company seems very concerned to know whether you ever "smoke grass." It turns out that he is an uncompromising opponent of the use of drugs, hard or soft. You truthfully deny anything of the sort. However, you know your rival has "smoked grass" in the past. You do not know how she handled the interview question on the subject. Would you attempt to get the information about your rival's conduct to the President?

Adapted from *Ethics in the World of Business*, by David Braybrooke.

### A RESPONSE

by Raymond E. Higgins II, Ph.D.

If I was competing with an acquaintance for a job, would I tell the company's president about her marijuana use? My decision would be influenced by these conditions:

1. how well I liked, respected and trusted her; 2. how strongly I felt about her getting the job; 3. how much I wanted, needed the job; 4. whether my opposition to marijuana use matched the President's position; 5. how old she was when she smoked marijuana, and the length of time she smoked marijuana; 6. whether it is my place to make sure the President knows the truth; 7. whether I mind getting the job based upon the shortcomings of another candidate or based upon my own merit.

If I believe that I should intervene, I would talk with the other candidate first about her drug use. If she told me that she told the President, and I believed her, I would not tell him. If she told me that she did not tell him and I believed her, or if she told me that she did tell him but I did not believe her, then I would have to decide whether I would intervene, to what extent I would intervene, and what methods I might use to intervene.

What would I do? I guess I would not tell the President. I would let our interviews stand on their own merits. But, I'd be tempted to tell him, especially if I needed the job and/or disliked the competitor.

*Dr. Higgins is an Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics at Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth Texas.*



*Notes Continued:*

deal with allegations of research misconduct in their institutions. The workshop, which will focus on the all-important early stages of the process, will be led by two university research administrators and an attorney, all of whom have had substantial experience in dealing with cases of alleged research misconduct. Among the topics covered will be: what to do when someone brings you an allegation; what is an inquiry and how does it differ from an investigation; how to constitute an inquiry; keeping records; anonymity and whistleblower protection; working with other offices in your institution; and dealing with the federal government and the press. For more information contact Deborah Runkle, American Association for the Advancement of Science, (202) 326-6794.

Indiana University's Association for Practical and Professional Ethics announces its *FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE* to be held on **March 6 - 7, 1992** in Indianapolis. The conference is designed to provide an opportunity for persons from a variety of disciplines and backgrounds to discuss common concerns in practical and professional ethics. Some sessions are especially appropriate for college and university faculty who are interested in incorporating the teaching of ethical issues into their regular classes but lack formal training in ethics; other sections will appeal to faculty and administrators who are interested in incorporating

ethics across the curriculum and would like to learn from the experience of others; topical sessions will appeal to people working in specific areas such as medicine/health care, law, business, and government; and some sessions will be of special interest to theoreticians of applied ethics. For more information contact Brian Schrag, Executive Secretary, at (812) 855-0261.

The International Bioethics Institute is sponsoring the Second Annual Congress of Healthcare Ethics Committees on **April 10 - 12, 1992** in San Francisco. This year's topic: *NEW DIRECTIONS: OPENING THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE*. This international "town meeting" is for members of healthcare ethics committees focusing on legal, and practical aspects of committee work in the 1990s. The congress features an international faculty and representatives from committees around the world. For more information contact: William A. Atchley, M.D., International Bioethics Institute, (415) 435-4900.

*A 1992 CORPORATE ETHICS CONFERENCE: FRONTIERS IN BUSINESS ETHICS* will be held on **May 5, 1992** in New York City and sponsored by The Conference Board and Johnson & Johnson. Business ethics is a time-honored concern, but the environment in which managers must try to ensure high standards of conduct is constantly changing. Today's manager faces new laws, new consumer expectations, new technologies and



ADDRESS  
CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

233 Yost Hall - CWRU - 10900 Euclid Avenue - Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7057

**The Center  
for Professional  
Ethics**  
at Case Western Reserve University

### *Notes Continued:*

changing workplace demographics. This year's annual business ethics conference will continue to draw on the expertise of key managers and business experts to explore how companies are developing innovative ethical responses to current changes in the business environment. Speakers will provide a stimulating look

at what lies ahead and practical advice on ethical concerns which impact the corporation now. Among the topics to be discussed: ethical compliance and changing sentencing laws, ethics and the quality movement, international ethics programs, corporate ethics awards, business ethics and the media. For more information call (212) 759-0900.

---

## **MEMBERSHIP**

While the CPE is largely underwritten by grants, membership income is required to enable the CPE to meet its operating budget. Members are invited to participate in the Center's planning activities. If you would like to make a contribution, (\$25 general membership; \$5 student membership) which is tax-deductible, please send it to the address on the back of this Newsletter. The CPE thanks you for your continued support.